

## National Republican.

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THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 19, 1866.

## THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH.

The people of this country will read the speech of THE PRESIDENT, addressed to the soldiers and sailors last evening, and there is no necessity to comment upon it at this time. It is another terrible broadside into the radical camp. Its telling force sweeps into their weak defenses and levels them to the earth. He visits upon the traitors and scoundrels who have been howling upon his track the severity of his invective and the indifference of his contempt.

Standing up in the majestic attitude as a tribune of a great people, panoplied with their power, confident of their support, and defending their rights, he hurls his rebukes upon his opponents as fearlessly as he advocates the immortal principles for which his long career of public service has been conspicuous and honored. The whole address rings with unadulterated patriotism. His words, like the guns of the soldiers and sailors whom he addressed, were spotted for the enemies of the Union wherever found. This earnest and emphatic address is a triumphant vindication of THE PRESIDENT'S position.

If it is right to preserve the Union, then he is right; if the Constitution is the chart of our liberties, then his platform is invulnerable; for upon it he stands unshaken and undeterred. The feature of the speech most interesting to us is his lucid explanation of the constitutional method of dealing with representation, and his reiterated adherence to the policy of loyal men for seats in the national councils. The threadbare falsehood that President Johnson is in favor of putting rebels into power is again refuted.

That "he is nailed to the counter" in such a way that none but the utterly reckless will dare repeat it. Not only the soldiers and sailors who heard President Johnson last night will approve his manly and patriotic words, but throughout the land the veterans of the army and the navy, together with the whole people, will echo back to him their mighty endorsement.

## THE NATIONAL UNION CLUB.

Elsewhere will be found the list of officers and platform of principles of the NATIONAL UNION CLUB of this city, under the auspices of which the great mass JOHNSON meeting at the City Hall was first held. Hon. ALEXANDER W. RANDALL, First Assistant Postmaster General, it will be observed, is President.

The public, and especially the friends of the Administration throughout the country, have been misled by the impression that the "National Union Club," so called, was the organization, formed within the Union party, for the support of the restoration policy of ANDREW JOHNSON. This is not so. The public should carefully distinguish between the "National Union Club," of which Mr. RANDALL is President, formed within the National Union Party for the support of President JOHNSON, and the falsely named "National Union Club," formed outside of the Union party, as a nucleus for the reorganization of the Copperhead Democracy.

## RELEASE OF C. C. CLAY.

In view of the fact that a garbled and unauthorized report of the order below, accompanied by the "memoranda," was printed in the New York Herald of yesterday, and inasmuch as one of the parties "recommending the release of Clay," (Senator WILSON), has authorized a denial that he ever did so to be printed in the New York Tribune, we are authorized to publish the following official papers:

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
WASHINGTON, APRIL 19, 1866.  
Major Gen. S. A. Miles, Commanding, Art. District, Memphis, Tenn.

Ordered: That Clement C. Clay, Jr., is hereby released from confinement, and permitted to return to and remain in the State of Alabama, and to visit such other places in the United States as his personal business may render absolutely necessary, upon the following conditions, viz: that he takes the oath of allegiance to the United States, and gives his parole of honor to conduct himself as a loyal citizen of the same, and to report himself in person at any time and place to answer any charges that may hereafter be prepared against him by the United States.

Please report receipt and execution of this order.

By order of the President of the United States,  
E. D. TORRENS,  
Assistant Adjutant General.

On the back of the above order was the following:

MEMORANDA.  
Case of C. C. Clay, Jr., of Alabama.  
Lieutenant General GRANT recommends the release of CLAY because he thinks he may be safely left at large on parole, or by amnesty. This manner of release affords no sufficient guarantee for his observance of any parole that might be taken by him to appear when called for. Recommends his release on parole not to leave the limits of his State without permission, and to surrender himself in the civil authorities for trial when called upon.

Hon. HENRY WILSON, U. S. S., has no hesitation in recommending the release of CLAY upon parole, and has "no doubt that he will be forthcoming when his presence is required by the Government."

Hon. THADDEUS STEVENS says that he would treat CLAY as a belligerent unless he was in the conspiracy to assassinate Mr. LINCOLN, which he does not believe. Would confiscate his property and let him go.

R. J. WALKER has known CLAY many years, and pronounces him incapable of the crime of Mr. LINCOLN'S assassination, and when his escape was certain, he surrendered himself in hope of securing a trial. Among hundreds of loyal men who have conversed with him, none believed CLAY guilty of complicity with the assassination. There is a general desire that, if not pardoned, he may be paroled.

The nominations of Mr. SMYTH, as collector of New York, and Mr. STANBURY for Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, were not received and referred by the Senate until yesterday, the first executive session since they were made.

## PERSONAL.

MR. A. B. SLOANER has been appointed Collector of Internal Revenue for the first district of Pennsylvania, vice John H. Tregart, removed.

## Leave of Absence Granted.

Lieut. B. N. Clark, Inspector General of the Freedmen's Bureau in this District, has been granted a leave of absence for fifteen days. He goes to New York.

## Grand Serenade to the President.

## OVATION BY THE PEOPLE.

## A Great Speech.

## Treason a Crime.

## THE STATES NEVER OUT OF THE UNION.

## LOYALISTS AS REPRESENTATIVES.

## Armies Raised to Crush Treason, Not States—to Preserve the Union, Not to Dissolve It.

At six o'clock last evening a procession of soldiers and sailors and such of their friends as sympathize with them in their grateful acknowledgments to the President for his order recently issued, directing the heads of Departments to give preference in appointments and promotions to soldiers and sailors, was formed at Willard's Hotel, and marched to the Executive Mansion, escorted by the Marine Band, to serenade President JOHNSON, who had signified to the committee that he would accept the compliment.

A very large number of persons of both sexes were previously on the ground at the White House, awaiting the demonstration. At quarter past six the band played several patriotic airs, when THE PRESIDENT, accompanied by Marshal GOODWIN, Colonel COOPER, and others, made his appearance, and was enthusiastically greeted with loud cheering by the assembled thousands.

President JOHNSON took his position on the coping of the wall outside the carriage-way, on the north front of the Executive Mansion, when, after the applause subsided, he was addressed on behalf of the soldiers and sailors by Mr. C. H. BEXTON, one of their number, in the following highly complimentary terms:

MR. BEXTON'S SPEECH.  
MR. PRESIDENT: Honorably discharged soldiers and sailors are now holding civil appointments in the various Departments of the Government conferred upon them by the distinguished honor of expressing our high appreciation of you as our Chief Magistrate, and to manifest our ever increasing trust and confidence in your ability in this our second hour of trial.

The bold and patriotic position you assumed in the Senate of the United States, rebuking and denouncing treason, is still fresh in our minds; nor do we forget that when peril to the nation became imminent, you exchanged the security and ease of a comfortable life for the dangers of a life of peril, and you have shown us that you are a man of courage and valor. Your voice was heard above the din of battle, exposing the heresy of secession, declaring for the Constitution, and the Union, and the noble work of restoring the flag of our country over a rebellious people. [Applause.]

It is not our province on this occasion to express opinions entertained by us as representatives of the great national problems now so prominent before the public mind, a wise solution of which must necessarily call forth the combined talent and profound wisdom of our great statesmen.

Those ties that bound our hearts together in common sympathy, and made us one in advancing the cause of freedom and defending a Republic that had been secured by the blood of our fathers, warm to-day as when the reveille of the bugle and drum resounded in hostile encampments, and the steady hallo of the guerrilla whistled among the mountain pines. [Applause.]

Sir, you see those before you who, when the storm-cloud of war menaced the destruction of our great institutions, grinded up their bones, and went forth to battle against a ruthless and unguided foe. The minister left the sacred desk, the orator the forum, and the professor vacated the chair, and the student bent his head to the study of his arms, and marched to the front side by side with the hardy yeoman, who, like the illustrious Putnam, left his plow rusting in the furrow.

Having passed through the stern ordeal of battle and created an insulting gap from the hand of traitors, and placed our country first among the mighty nations of the earth, we appear before you to-day in the peaceful habitation of citizens. While a kind Providence protected our lives during the terrible conflict of arms, we cannot forget that three hundred and fifty thousand brave men have fallen, the memory of whose gallant deeds will live in the hearts of a grateful people. [Applause.] Few, if any, of our number have escaped unscathed; if we are to be remembered by our best interests, and as you entertain the opinion that those who risked their lives for their country have no more to do in the service of the public, and as you have recently instructed the heads of Departments and Bureaus to give such persons the preference for positions when found duly qualified, we feel that we are entitled to your consideration. [Prolonged cheering.] For this purpose we have convened, and we feel assured that the brave and noble hearts of a million comrades, now scattered all over the land, will best respond to the sincere and heartfelt thanks we now tender to ANDREW JOHNSON, the patriot of Tennessee, the President of the American Republic, and the firm and undeviating champion of the rights and interests of the soldier and sailor. [Loud cheers.]

In return for your kindness we can but offer you our sympathies and our prayers, trusting that the same all-wise Providence who has brought our nation through a baptism of blood, and to whom we now consecrate anew, purified from slavery and sanctified by a nation's tears, that He will guide and direct you in the administration of public affairs as to enable you to calm the troubled waters, harmonize public opinion, and restore our whole Federal edifice once more to peace and prosperity. [Applause.]

At the conclusion of Mr. BEXTON'S speech, THE PRESIDENT was hailed with three cheers, after which he commenced speaking.

It is not affection in me to say that language is inadequate to convey the heartfelt feelings produced on this occasion by your presence here, and by the presentation of your sentiments as expressed by your representative in his address, and in the resolutions which you have thought proper to adopt. I confess that in the peculiar posture of public affairs your presence and address give encouragement and confidence to me in my efforts to discharge the duties incumbent upon me as Chief Magistrate of the Republic, and which I have to say I shall address you in the character of citizens, soldiers, and sailors. I shall speak to you on those terms and on none other. I repeat my thanks for this manifestation of your approbation and of your encouragement. [Applause.]

We are to-day involved in one of the most critical and trying struggles that have occurred since this Government was spoken into existence. Nations, like individuals, must have a beginning, must have a birth. In struggling into existence a nation passes through its first years of infancy. It is not necessary for me now to carry you back to the struggle when this nation was born. It is not necessary for me to allude to the privations and hardships of those who were engaged in that struggle to achieve the national birth. It is not necessary to point to the blood shed and the lives sacrificed in accomplishing that result. The next ordeal through which a nation has to pass is when it is called upon to give evidence that it has strength, capacity, and power to maintain its life among the nations of the earth. In giving such evidence we passed through the war of 1812, and through the war with Mexico, and we passed through all the struggles that have since occurred, up to the beginning of the rebellion. This was our second ordeal. But a nation has another test still to undergo; and that is to give evidence to the nations of the earth and to its own citizens that it has power to resist internal foes, that it has strength enough to put down treason at home and treason within its own borders. [Cheers.] We have commenced that ordeal,

and I trust in God we will pass through it successfully. [Cheers.]

I feel complimented by the attention of your representative to the fact that I stood in the Senate in 1860 and 1861, when the nation was entering on this third ordeal, and raised my voice and hand against treason, treachery, and traitors at home. [Cheers, and cries of "Good!"] I stand here to-day holding to and maintaining the same principles which I then maintained. [Cheers.] I stand here to-day opposing traitors and treason, whether they be in the South or in the North. [Loud cheers.] I stand here to-day, as I then stood, using all my power, mental and physical, to preserve this nation in passing through the third phase of its existence. The organized forces and disbanded powers that recently stood arrayed against us are disbanded and driven from the field, but it does not follow that there are still no enemies against our form of government and our free institutions. [Applause.] I then stood in the Senate of the United States denying the doctrine of separation and secession. I denied then, as I deny now, that any State has the right, of its own will, to separate itself from the other States, and thereby to destroy the Union and break up the Government. And I think I have given some evidence that I have been sincere and in earnest. And now I want to know why it is that the whole train of shrewdness, calumnies, and traitors have been barking and snapping at my heels. [Cheers.] Why is it that they array themselves against me? Is it because I stand on the side of the people?—and, when I say the people, I include the soldiers and sailors. [Cheers.] Why is it that they are arrayed in treason, and vilifying, and calumniating me? Where were they during the rebellion? [A voice: "In bed!"] [Laughter.] In the Senate I raised my voice against it; and when it was believed that it would be to the interest of the nation, and would assist in putting down the rebellion, did I not leave my place in the Senate—a place of emolument, ease and distinction, and take my position where the enemy could be reached, and where men's lives were in danger? [Cheers and cries of "That's so!"] While I was thus exposed, personally and publicly, and in every way, some of my present traitors and calumniators were far removed from the fact, and were enjoying ease and comfort. [Cheers and laughter.] I care not for them. I care not that slander, that foul whisper of sin, has been turned loose against me. I care not for all that; and let me tell you here to-day that, although pretty well advanced in life, I feel that I shall live long enough to live down the whole pack of traitors and slanderers. [Applause.] They have turned the whole pack loose to lower me in your estimation. [Voices: "They cannot do it!"] Try, Blanche, and Sweetheart—little dogs and all—come and snapping and snarling at my heels, but they cannot do it. The American people—citizens, soldiers, and sailors—know that from my advent into public life to the present moment I have always stood unflinchingly and unwaveringly the advocate and defender of their rights and interests. [Cheers.] We are now in the nation's third ordeal. We are not yet through it. We said that States could not go out of the Union. We denied the doctrine of secession; and we have demonstrated that we were right—demonstrated it by the strong arm of the law, and by the sword of the Union. Yes, the American people—citizens, soldiers, and sailors—know that from my advent into public life to the present moment I have always stood unflinchingly and unwaveringly the advocate and defender of their rights and interests. [Cheers.] We are now in the nation's third ordeal. We are not yet through it. 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